



News Release

United States Navy

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Titan II carrying Coriolis Weather Satellite launched Satellite orbit to be raised, circularized over next week



An Air Force Titan II Space Launch Vehicle lifts off from Vandenberg's Space Launch Complex 4 West Monday at 6:19 PST carrying the Coriolis mission. Photo courtesy Lockheed Martin Space Systems and Tom Rogers.

VANDENBERG AFB, Calif. – An Air Force Titan II space launch vehicle carrying the Coriolis mission successfully flew on its sixth attempt from this missile range today at 6:19 a.m. Pacific Time.

Successful separation of the Titan II upper stage and the Coriolis spacecraft occurred at 7:17 Pacific Time as the vehicle flew near Kenya. The Coriolis space vehicle has had at least six additional communications opportunities with ground controllers and the systems are operating nominally. Mission controllers in Albuquerque will raise and circularize the orbit over the next seven days.

The Air Force Coriolis mission carries the Navy Windsat microwave polarimetric radiometer and Air Force Solar Mass Ejection Imager.

The Windsat radiometer will provide important meteorological information on wind speed and direction at or near the surface of the ocean and the Solar Mass Ejection Imager will provide valuable early warning of coronal mass ejections that affect communications and power distribution systems here on earth.

The Coriolis mission was assembled and launched by the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center's Detachment 12 Space Test Program Office at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico using a refurbished Lockheed Martin Titan II booster and a Spectrum Astro spacecraft bus. Spectrum Astro integrated the spacecraft bus and payloads with the Titan II for launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System program office is participating

in the Coriolis flight and will use the Windsat information in reducing risk for the Conical Microwave Imager Sounder.

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